

Stewardship Intergenerational Gathering

Small-group Session Plan High School

Objectives for this lesson with this age group:

1. To explore the idea of our talents, time, treasure, and people close to us as gifts from God
2. To recognize these gifts as signs of God's grace meant to be shared with the world.
3. To think about how to go about 'giving back' to God the gifts we have received by serving others and using our gifts for the good of all.

Materials needed:

- ◆ Watch (please bring your own to keep time for the meditation)
- ◆ Movie (VHS) & TV (Movie available from the Diocese)
- ◆ Meditation instructions
- ◆ CD of your choice for meditation time that lasts at least 25 minutes
- ◆ Pledge sheets and interest cards
- ◆ pens

Before the session:

- ◆ Go to your assigned room and check to see that everything is there and ready.

You will be called by name to lead the young people to your room.

Small-group time: 60 minutes

The amount of time for this lesson should allow you to move at a comfortable pace through the materials.

1. Welcome the students. Tell them your name. Take a couple minutes to get to know them. Ask them to move their nametag to where you can see it, if necessary. Feel free to be creative, but at least have them go around and all say their name, school, and one or two other questions of your choosing. Make sure you answer them as well. (10 minutes)
2. If they are not already facing the television, invite them to do so. Let them sit however is most comfortable to them, so long as they will not distract themselves or others. Then play the clip. (6 minutes)

Description: There are actually two clips, but they play one right after another, so you won't have to fuss with it. In the first clip, Monk (the main character in a popular detective show—he has OCD, but the attention to detail helps him solve cases), meets with a caseworker because he is going to care for a 2-year old boy named Tommy for two weeks until a foster family can take him. Monk is a bit nervous, but knows that he wants to look after Tommy. In the second clip, the case has since been solved and it's time for Tommy to go with the new foster family. Monk doesn't want to see him go, but know that it is best for Tommy and says goodbye. Ultimately, it is easy to see that Monk cherished the time he and Tommy had, but is also happy to see Tommy go with a family that will be good to him.

3.

When the clip is finished, turn off the TV and have them get into a circle. As you go through the questions, if they are reluctant to participate, go around the circle and have everyone answer. This takes off some of the pressure since they know everyone will have to say something. Use their answers to build discussion. The hope is that rather than telling them about stewardship, this discussion can allow them to realize what stewardship is for themselves, with you guiding and supplementing their self-catechesis when necessary. (14 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

- What did you see going on in these two clips?
- Monk knew going in that Tommy's presence was temporary - he would be with Monk for only 2 weeks - what do you think would have been different if the timing was unknown?
- After having the gift of looking after Tommy, how did Monk feel when it was time to give Tommy to his new foster family?
- 1 Peter 4:10 reads, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." How do you see this passage as connecting with the clips we watched? What sorts of things do you think can be gifts and graces from God?

4. After the discussion winds down, invite the students to find a comfortable position—it can be leaning against the wall, in a chair, lying on the floor with their coat as a pillow... any position that allows them to be comfortable without fidgeting. Explain to them that they will be going on a prayer walk or guided meditation. All that they need to do is lie back, listen to your voice, and allow them to really imagine the experience you are describing. At about the same time as you start the meditation, start the last track on the CD—it lasts for 25 minutes, so you'll have plenty of time. (It's probably best to slowly turn down the music at the end rather than stopping it outright.) The meditation is on the second to last page of this outline. (20 minutes)
5. After all of the students have come out of the meditation, hand out the pledge sheets and the interest cards. Have them fill both out quietly, and when they have finished, let them keep the pledge sheet but return the interest cards to you. (10 minutes)
6. Just leave the materials and interest cards in the room – it is important for you to go with your group and get back to your own family.

Thanks!!!



STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Starting today, I will be a good steward by sharing my gifts of _____

with others, thus giving it back to God. I will do this by _____

_____. Furthermore, I will

encourage others (_____) to do the same by _____

_____.

Speak slowly and in a soft, soothing voice. If not otherwise marked, allow for 3-5 seconds between each sentence, and a short pause after each comma. Times are to act as a guideline, so they can be adjusted to fit the group.

Close your eyes. Take a few deep breaths and focus on the air moving in and then out of your lungs. (1 minute) Notice how your breathing gradually slows as you begin to calm. (1 minute) Release the tension in your shoulders (30 seconds), your jaw (15 seconds), your forehead (15 seconds), and your neck. Let go of any concerns or worries and simply relax. (1 minute) TOTAL: 4 minutes

Imagine that you are on the edge of a forest. Night has just fallen, and the light from the full moon illuminates a path leading into the woods. (1 minute) You begin to slowly walk along the path, taking time to notice the world around you. (1 minute) The moonlight filtering through the leaves. The soft hoot of an owl in the distance. (30 seconds) As you walk along, the trees begin to thin, and you hear the gentle sound of waves upon the shore. (15 seconds) You leave the forest behind to find yourself on a white sandy beach. (15 seconds) You wander along the edge of the water for a bit, allowing the warm water to gently brush against your feet. (30 seconds) Eventually, you sit down against a sand dune and watch the moonlight play upon the calm surface of the ocean. (30 seconds) After a while, you notice a figure walking towards you upon the water. (15 seconds) As the figure gets nearer, you recognize Him as Jesus. (15 seconds) He approaches you on the sand, and you move over slightly so that He may join you against the sand dune. (15 seconds) You sit together in a comfortable silence for a while. (1 minute) After a few minutes of simply enjoying His presence, you begin to tell Him about what's been going on in your life. (2 minutes) He quietly listens as you move away from the simple topics and begin to talk to Him about the gifts that He has given to you. (15 seconds) Your family, your friends... things you own... skills and talents you have... (1 minute) You begin to tell Him about times when you forgot that they were gifts to be used for the sake of all – times when you failed to return the gifts to Him through sharing them with others. (2 minutes) Throughout it all, Jesus listens quietly and attentively. (30 seconds) When you finish, He smiles gently and reminds you that He is always there to guide and help you whenever you ask. (1 minute) You rest together for a while longer before Jesus tells you that it's time for Him to go. (15 seconds) You watch Him as He stands up and walks away upon the calm water. (30 seconds) As Jesus leaves you, you notice that despite the fact that you can no longer see Him, you still feel His loving presence all around you and know that you will be able to take this feeling with you as you leave. (45 seconds) TOTAL: 14 minutes

You enjoy the peace for a while longer, knowing that you will eventually have to go back. (30 seconds) You take a final look around you, and slowly begin to walk back towards the forest. (10 seconds) A soft breeze brushes your cheek, and you leave the waters of the ocean behind you. (20 seconds) You walk through the forest, noticing again the shadows cast by the moonlight. (15 seconds) The absolute stillness. (40 seconds) You take a final moment to enjoy the peace (5 seconds), exit the forest, and open your eyes. TOTAL: 2 minutes

